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CLASSIFICATION S: CREST

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 27 September 1949

SUBJECT Airfields at Tbilisi

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. a. The factory airfield located southeast of the town and the Tbilisi (44°45'E/41°42'N) aircraft plant, had a 1,600 x 6,600 feet landing field which had been expanded and entirely concreted.* An administration building, a long open hangar, and what was apparently a small repair hangar were located at the southwestern border of the field.

b. Jet-propelled aircraft of the ZAVOD 31 were test-flown every day. Each flight took about 10 to 15 minutes.

c. About 150 single-engine fighters were parked at the field.*** Description: in-line engine; three-bladed propeller; high rudder assembly; tail wheel not retractable; rounded off wing tips; wings slightly dihedral; landing gear retracted sideways into wings; same size as Me-109 type; good climbing performance. **

d. The aircraft made short local flights. The air force flying and ground personnel daily came from town by truck and bus.

2. A military airfield with a concrete runway about 3,300 feet long, hangars, barracks, and cantonment buildings was located about 6 miles east-northeast of the factory airfield. *** The field was occupied by:

a. Forty to fifty propeller-driven fighters of the same type as those produced in the ZAVOD 31 (see para 1). ***

b. Twenty to thirty bombers: two in-line engines; high rudder assembly; low-wing monoplane; wings set far to the rear; landing gear and nose wheel retractable; somewhat larger than the Douglas plane. ***

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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Date, 4 Apr 77

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3. There was day and night flying. The following flying activity was observed:

a. Individual and formation flying of up to 15 fighters; air combat training and firing at slave targets.

b. Formation flying of up to 9 bombers, including long-distance and night flights.

c. Solo parachute jumps from biplanes.

* [redacted] Comment: It is considered incredible that the entire landing field of the 1,600 x 6,600 feet airfield was concreted

[redacted] The existence of a concrete runway was stated in all previous reports. A confirming report of a more recent date is required. The other information agrees with previous reports.

** [redacted] Comment: The statement that 150 fighters, presumably of a Yak type, were parked there, may indicate that the factory airfield was also used by the Soviet Air Force as a kind of aircraft park.

*** [redacted] Comment: This airfield is probably identical to the previously reported VASILIANI airfield. From this and other reports on its occupation it can be assumed that a fighter and a bomber regiment are stationed there.

**** [redacted] Comment: The observed fighter type seems to be a Yak type, although it is again stated that the landing gear is retracted sideways into the wings. Such a type has not yet become known to this office. The type of the bomber aircraft cannot be identified, since an error in observation probably is being made.

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